

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE  
NASHVILLE DIVISION

**FILED**  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENN.

JUN 20 2018

BY EO  
DEPUTY CLERK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

v. )

MARK BRYANT )

No. 3:18-00144  
18 U.S.C. § 242  
18 U.S.C. § 1519

**INDICTMENT**

**THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:**

At all times material to this Indictment:

Introduction

1. The Cheatham County Sheriff's Office ("CCSO") operated the Cheatham County Jail, a correctional facility in Ashland, <sup>city</sup> Tennessee, in the Middle District of Tennessee, that housed detainees arrested on state criminal charges.

2. On or about November 5, 2016, J.N. was a detainee who had not yet been arraigned and who was housed in the Cheatham County Jail while he awaited trial.

3. On or about November 5, 2016, Defendant **MARK BRYANT** was a Corporal at the Cheatham County Jail and was certified to carry a Taser.

4. On or about November 5, 2016, corrections officers removed J.N. from his cell at the Cheatham County Jail and placed him in a restraint chair near the jail's booking area.

Paragraphs 1 through 4 are hereby incorporated by reference into the counts set forth below.

### COUNT ONE

On or about November 5, 2016, in the Middle District of Tennessee, **MARK BRYANT**, while acting under color of law, willfully deprived J.N., a person known to the Grand Jury, of the right, secured and protected by the Constitution and laws of the United States, to be free from the deprivation of liberty without due process of law, which includes the right to be free from the use of unreasonable force amounting to punishment. Specifically, **MARK BRYANT** used a Taser on J.N. multiple times without legal justification while J.N. was in a restraint chair and surrounded by multiple officers. One of these Taser cycles lasted approximately 25 seconds and a second cycle lasted approximately 15 seconds. The offense resulted in bodily injury to J.N., and the offense included the use of a dangerous weapon.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 242.

### COUNT TWO

THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

On or about November 5, 2016, in the Middle District of Tennessee, **MARK BRYANT**, while acting under color of law, willfully deprived J.N., a person known to the Grand Jury, of the right, secured and protected by the Constitution and laws of the United States, to be free from the deprivation of liberty without due process of law, which includes the right to be free from the use of unreasonable force amounting to punishment. Specifically, as officers prepared to transport J.N. to a medical facility, **MARK BRYANT** used a Taser on J.N. without legal justification after J.N. was placed in handcuffs and was surrounded by multiple officers. The Taser cycle lasted for approximately 11 seconds. The offense resulted in bodily injury to J.N., and the offense included the use of a dangerous weapon.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 242.

### COUNT THREE

#### THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

On or about November 5, 2016, in the Middle District of Tennessee, **MARK BRYANT**, in relation to and in contemplation of a matter within the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, an agency of the United States, knowingly falsified a document with the intent to impede, obstruct, and influence the investigation and proper administration of the matter within the jurisdiction of a federal agency. Specifically, **MARK BRYANT** falsified a Cheatham County Sheriff's Department report dated November 5, 2016, for a use of force incident involving detainee J.N. by omitting the material information that **MARK BRYANT** tased J.N. multiple times for a total of approximately 50 seconds at approximately 8:00 p.m., and by falsely reporting the sequence of events related to **MARK BRYANT**'s use of a Taser on J.N. at approximately 8:00 p.m., under different circumstances from Officer D.B.'s use of a Taser at 6:55 p.m.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1519.

### COUNT FOUR

#### THE GRAND JURY FURTHER CHARGES:

On or about November 5, 2016, in the Middle District of Tennessee, **MARK BRYANT**, in relation to and in contemplation of a matter within the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, an agency of the United States, knowingly falsified a document with the intent to impede, obstruct, and influence the investigation and proper administration of the matter within the jurisdiction of a federal agency. Specifically, **MARK BRYANT** falsified a Cheatham County Sheriff's Department report dated November 5, 2016, for a use of force incident involving detainee

J.N. by omitting the material information that **MARK BRYANT** tased J.N. for approximately 11 seconds at approximately 10:30 p.m. while J.N. was compliant.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1519.

A TRUE BILL:




GRAND JURY FOREPERSON

DONALD Q. COCHRAN  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



SARA BETH MYERS  
ASSISTANT UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



MICHAEL J. SONGER  
TRIAL ATTORNEY  
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION